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General Wilkinson's Occupation of Mobile, April 1813

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GENERAL WILKINSON'S OCCUPATION OF
MOBILE, APRIL, 1813

Mobile 24th. April 1813

[James Innerarity to John Forbes]

Dear Sir

Before this can reach you it is more than probable you will have learnt the change that has taken place here-Rumors of an intended attack from the Americans had been afloat for some days previous which on the morning of the 12th. were converted into certainty-

General Wilkinson with about 800 Veteran troops, five Gunboats & a proportion of artillery had arrived in the Bay on the afternoon of the 11th. & that night disembarked at Lana [?] Mandeville- Besides these he had four hundred troops & artillery that had been marched down on the other side from Fort Stoddart & took post at the Village to cut off the communication with Pensacola-

On the forenoon of the 12th. therefore he sent a summons to Perez, the Commandant to evacuate the Fort & retire to the East of Perdido- On receiving it that Officer went out to the Camp, had a conversation with the General, at which I understand a kind of Capitulation was agreed on and in Consequence of it on the afternoon of the 15th. the Fort being evacuated by the Spanish Garrison who embarked for Pensacola

Note—This letter is in continuation of the series of documents, survivals of the records of Panton, Leslie and Company preserved by the family of John Innerarity, a partner of that firm and its successor John Forbes and Company, the publication of which has been continuous in the QUARTERLY. These are in the possession of Mrs. John W. Greenslade, who has transcribed them.

was taken possession of by the Americans without any fighting or disturbance-

Everything has remained quiet since, no one is molested in person or property & the Civil Government is about to be organised-

The Invasion of the [illegible] & its tame surrender have however, as I am informed occasioned great indignation in Pensacola, but that indignation is likely as heretofore to evaporate in words- It was at one time said that the Governor had called on the Creeks to take up arms but this has been contradicted, & I rejoice at it, for the Americans only want a pretence of that kind to take possession of Pensacola also-

I have remained during these transactions perfectly Neutral making myself neither officious or conspicuous on one side or the other & I hope by persevering in this line of conduct to steer clear of present difficulties.

My brother and myself claim Spanish Citizenship by' residence, of which we obtained on petition to the Governor a declaratory Act or decree immediately after the publication of the Constitution October last-

If as you formerly signified to me your intention of doing you have taken a similar step. A certified copy of the Act granted to you might eventually be very useful in this quarter, & I would wish you to send it on by all means & as speedily as possible ; for altho' our new Authorities shew me a fair face, I know Malignity is in the hearts of many of them, and as the time for oppression by open force is past, it is to be feared recourse will be had to the acts of legal chicanery-The General, I Except entirely from this suspicion, but his power of conferring benefit or doing injury is now over-

I have seen him but Seldom, he always expresses however the strongest regard for you & desire to promote your interest if it lay in his power-

The land Commissioner Mr. Crawford, a near relation, I believe, of Crawford the Georgia Member is arrived & will open his office in the course of next month-he is a young man, a lawyer by profession & from his appearance I have formed a favorable opinion of him-

On my return from New Orleans to which place I sett off in two days-I shall present all our claims in this district-

The Fort Stoddart mail having failed four times successively, no late information has reached this from your quarter-I am extremely anxious to learn your present political situation, whether you have recovered your property or whether it is still depending on the ***Ultimate Political views of the U. S.***

This will be forwarded by my brother either via Savannah or Prospect Bluff. The conveyance by mail being at present so very uncertain- If any perfectly safe opportunity occurs of writing this way, I would beg you to send back the last Original partnership agreement after taking a notarial copy of it. It may & probably will be wanted in the settlement of W. S.'s [William Simpson] Estate-I have as yet had no answer to the letter that I wrote to his Mother & forwarded from New Orleans the 2nd. of March, but this may have been occasioned by the failure of the Mail-I shall write you again from New Orleans & meantime remain as ever,

My Dear Sir,
Most truly Yours,
James Innerarity.

John Forbes Esquire.